

## FORMER HIGH COURT OFFICIAL DEAD

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE BETTER  
CONDITION NOW THAN SINCE IN  
1920; FURTHER RECOVERY NEEDED  
TO PUT IT BACK AS BEFORE WAR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—American agriculture, on the whole, occupies the best position it has held since 1920 but much further recovery is required to bring it back to its pre-war condition, the Agriculture Department informed President Coolidge in its annual report. The report was prepared by the late Henry C. Wallace and embodies his views, but was signed and presented by the present Secretary, Howard M. Gore, who was assistant secretary under Mr. Wallace.

"Prospects are that the gross income from agricultural production for the crop year 1924-25 may reach approximately \$12,000,000,000, compared with \$11,500,000,000 in 1923-24 and \$9,550,000,000 in 1921-22," said the report. "A favorable readjustment has taken place in price ratios between agriculture and industry. While the purchasing power of farm products is 18 percent below the pre-war level, it is 16 percent above the index for May, 1921, when the depression was in its worst period. This year's harvest was the finest in five years. Though not the greatest in volume of products, it was the best balanced and represented the best income.

Prosperity Is Nearer  
"Yes, it would be a mistake to conclude that the American farmer

is done with the troubles of the depression period. If the readjustment is left to blind economic forces it will be many years before that can be said. Although farm commodity price levels are headed toward a better position, they have still a large gain to make before agricultural products will be on a parity with other products. This means that agriculture is still laboring under a heavy disadvantage. "The improvement that has taken place has not yet lasted long enough to produce any marked betterment in the finances of the farmer. As a matter of fact, the suffering of many farmers is perhaps as intense today as it was in the first years of the depression period, because the effects of the depression are cumulative. Present favorable possibilities will have to be turned into realities before it can fairly be said that agriculture again is enjoying normal prosperity. Nevertheless the showing of 1924 brings prosperity nearer.

Wheat Situation  
The outstanding event in the agricultural history of 1924 has been the wheat situation, the report said. Apparent surpluses of bread grains have been much reduced, and the world's crop promises to be between 200,000,000 and 350,000,000 bushels.

(Continued on Page Three.)

## PRINCIPALS IN MYSTERIOUS "MR. A." BLACKMAIL PLOT.



RAJAH SIR HARI SINGH, CHARLES E. ROBINSON, MONTAGUE NEWTON, EARL HALSBURY, MRS. CHARLES E. ROBINSON, MR. JUSTICE DARLING, & MR. JOHN SIMON.

Here are the first photographs to reach America of the principals in the famous London blackmail case, in which Charles Ernest Robinson, an English bookmaker, sued the Midland Bank for \$750,000, alleging a check made to his order by "Mr. A." an Indian potentate whose name was withheld for reasons of state and been paid to other persons. It was revealed that "Mr. A." who is reported in London to be Rajah Sir Hari Singh, son of the fabulously rich Maharajah of Kashmir, had been trapped in a Paris hotel with Mrs. Robinson, by Montague Noel Newton, who posed as Robinson. The case was heard before Mr. Justice Darling, in London, the bank being represented by Sir John Simon, while Earl Halsbury appeared for Robinson.

MAHLON PITNEY  
PASSES AWAY IN  
NEW YORK CITY

Former Associate Justice Supreme Court of United States, Is Dead.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Former Associate Justice Mahlon C. Pitney, of the United States Supreme Court, died here today at the age of 64 years. He retired from the bench in 1922, on account of ill-health.

Associate Justice Mahlon Pitney was forced by illness to retire from the United States Supreme Court at the height of his usefulness. Enthusiastic and tireless in devotion to duty, he unstintingly drew upon his reserve strength until a seemingly sound and vigorous constitution was undermined, and the collapse came without warning to his associates upon the bench or the public generally.

The stroke fell while he was visiting Philadelphia to join with Chief Justice Taft and other members of the Supreme Court in the rededication of the room in Independence Hall where the court had held its first sessions. There a blood-clot formed in his brain, but prompt medical attendance enabled him to return to Washington. By careful nursing he remained upon the bench through the remainder of the term, few suspecting his real condition. He delivered three opinions after his affliction, those in attendance attributing his husky voice and thick enunciation to temporary bronchial trouble, instead of semi-paralysis of the vocal cords.

Doomed to Retirement.  
Hope that he would be sufficiently restored during the recess to permit him to resume his judicial duties when the court reconvened in October was dissipated by a second stroke in August, 1922. Then his family was advised by attending physicians that the genial Justice, widely admired for his ability and kindly disposition, was doomed to forced retirement. He reluctantly recognized the inevitable, and tendered his resignation to take effect December 31, 1922. He was succeeded upon the bench by Justice Edward T. Sanford.

Congress promptly authorized his retirement. Although he had served upon the Supreme bench nearly 11 years he was not eligible for retirement because only 64 years of age, the law contemplating active service until the age of seventy. Medical certificates submitted to Congressional committees in connection with the special retirement act disclosed that since shortly after he went upon the Supreme Bench in

(Continued on Page Five.)

Tenth Victim of Train  
Crash Gives Up Life

OAKLAND, Calif., Dec. 9.—The death of Patrolman Edward A. Frohm, who contracted pneumonia adding the wreck victims of the Key Pier System electric train collision, brings the total crash victims to 10.



Remember There Are

ONLY

13

More Shopping  
Days Before  
CHRISTMAS

TRAINMEN VOTE  
CALLING STRIKE

Southern Pacific Engine Men  
to Strike Unless Issues  
Are Settled.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—Ninety six percent of the engineers, firemen and hostlers of the Southern Pacific, El Paso and Southwestern, and Arizona Eastern railroad systems, have voted to strike "if necessary to obtain a settlement of matters in controversy."

The Southern Pacific officials agreed to a joint conference with the representatives of the engine crews and hostlers, President Spradley announced last night after it became known the men voted to strike unless a conference was held.

Fake Questionnaires  
Are Sold in Seattle

SEATTLE, Dec. 9.—Fraudulent questionnaires were sold to 250 persons, including one policeman, prior to the Civil Service promotion examination of last Saturday. Chief of Police Severson announced today after a partial examination.

Railroad Consolidation  
Measure Is Introduced

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The railroad consolidation bill has been introduced by Chairman Winslow of the House Commerce Committee.

SINKING OF RUM BOAT REVEALED  
HISTORY OF ITS ROMANTIC CAREER

SAN PEDRO, Dec. 9.—With the sinking of the rum ship Guilla off the coast of Northern California recently, it was revealed here that the vessel had a history of romance and adventure and was said once to have been owned by a king of Spain. Here is her history as told on "the beach."

When built 40 years ago for the Spanish king, the graceful clipper yacht, equipped with gold fitting and priceless draperies, was the envy of European royalty. From the service of the king the vessel passed to that of an English merchant prince, then successively to war service, to a band of British adventurers who called her the Frontiersman, and finally, after the adventurers went bankrupt at San Pedro, into the liquor trade. She was not wanted by the legitimate lines of shipping, because she was a coal burning vessel on an oil burning coast.

Her decks equipped with ma-

Liquor Running  
By Airplane  
Is Alleged

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 9.—An airplane liquor runner has been making frequent trips from the northwest to the vicinity of Spokane according to the sheriff's office but the liquor has always been safely taken away and the airplane disappears before officers can reach the scene.

MORTIMER IS  
BEING GRILLED

Charges Col. Forbes With  
Having Broken Up His  
Home—Divorce Sought

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—Liquor permit deals and domestic personalities of Elias H. Mortimer features the testimony as the cross examination started in the Forbes-Thompson Veterans' Bureau graft trial.

Mortimer declared that Forbes had broken up his home. He said he "hoped" Mrs. Mortimer would receive her divorce decree, she having recently made application in Philadelphia.

Mortimer told of finding Forbes in Mrs. Mortimer's apartments on a certain Labor Day and "there are other scores I want to even up with Forbes."

LEWIS SEEKING  
RE-ELECTION AS  
HEAD OF MINERS

Ballots Are Mailed Out and  
Voting Starts Today by  
United Mine Workers.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 9.—William Green, secretary-treasurer of the International Union of the United Mine Workers of America, has mailed to all local unions ballots for the biennial election of officers which starts today. The victors will begin their terms on April 1, 1925.

John L. Lewis, president, is a candidate for reelection and has one opponent—George Voyzey of Vernonia, Ill. Vice-President Philip Murray has one opponent for that office—Arley Stables of Christopher, Ill. Joseph Nearing of Reserve Mines, Nova Scotia, is out for secretary-treasurer, while William B. Green, incumbent, seeks reelection.

There are six candidates for the three places on the auditing and credential committee. They are Albert Neutzing, Glen Carbon, Ill.; John J. Mossop, Bowdell, O.; T. G. Morgan, Linton, Ind.; James Murphy Cherry, Ill.; William Gillett, Bicknell, Ind., and George Temperley, Roslyn, Wash.

Six men also seek the three positions as tellers. They are Thomas Packell, Shawnee, O.; William Young, South Park, Pa.; William Holliway, Granville, Ill.; William Foster, Hazen, Pa.; Thomas Conners, Orient, Ill., and Joseph Nixon, Linton, Ind.

More than forty candidates for the right to be included among the eight delegates to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. Eight alternates also will be chosen.

Alaska R. R. Tourist  
Travel Broke Record

SEATTLE, Dec. 9.—Tourist travel on the Alaska Railroad far exceeded expectations last summer and the railroad is planning to extend care of travelers during the 1925 season according to a statement issued by the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. It is believed that the tourist travel over the railroad next summer will be limited only to the capacity of the steamship lines serving that part of the Alaska Territory.

Forty Million Dollar  
Trust Fund Proposed

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 9.—Creation of the trust fund of \$40,000,000 for certain charitable purposes, is announced by James B. Duke, multi-millionaire powder magnate.

88 Story Office  
Building to Be  
Erected in N. Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—This city is to have a 88 story office building outranking the height of the 51 story Woolworth building according to information in real estate circles. The new structure will occupy an entire block down town on Broadway.

British Debt Funding  
Settlement Is Closed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The American Debt Refunding Commission considers the British debt refunding settlement a closed incident and the members believe that it is not likely the British government will make a move for revision of the terms even should another nation get better terms.

Rev. Zeigler Connected  
With West Seattle Church

SEATTLE, Dec. 9.—Rev. A. P. Zeigler, artist of Cordova, Alaska, and formerly in charge of the Episcopal mission there, has assumed the duties of St. John's Church, West Seattle, assistant to Rev. Maurice J. Bywater.

Editor of Paper for  
Nearly 50 Years, Dead

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—E. P. Greer, nearly 50 years editor of the Winfield, Kansas, Courier, died on board the steamship City of Los Angeles enroute to Honolulu according to a radio dispatch received here today. He is a brother of G. F. Greer, printer on the Examiner, and another brother, B. R. Greer, is editor of the Ashland, Oregon, Tidings.

INVENTIVE GENIUS OF  
WATER CREATED WIDE  
TRADE FOR FOAM SUDS

LONDON, Dec. 9.—The memory of Benjamin Kenton, the first man who bottled beer successfully for export, was honored at a banquet given by the Vintners' Company here, in solemn silence the company drank to "the immortal memory of our late brother and benefactor, Benjamin Kenton."

When 14 years of age Kenton was apprenticed to an hotel keeper, and later became a waiter and beer-drawer at one of London's old-fashioned public houses called the "Crown and Magpie." He married the daughter of the tavern keeper and prospered, and his fortune was increased when he discovered the secret of bottling ale so that it could pass through the changes of climate on the voyage to hot countries without the cork flying out of the bottle.

OBSTRUCTION OF  
JUSTICE, CHARGE

Four Officials Are Indicted  
by Grand Jury in East  
on Serious Charge.

MOUNT CLEMENS, Dec. 9.—Charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice, William F. Sawin, Justice of the Peace; Arthur I. Osso, Chief of Police; Varnum J. Bowers, former Mayor and Democratic candidate for Congress, and Lynn M. Johnston, former prosecuting attorney, have been brought into court on warrants issued as the result of a grand jury investigation.

The warrants were based on the alleged failure of the authorities to bring to justice, men who are said to have operated a confidence game and swindled Anton Marvich, a miner, out of \$10,000 which he received as an award in a mine accident.

Robbers Secure \$50,000  
Loot of Radio Apparatus

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—Robbers last night overpowered the watchman of the Wabash and McLaughlin warehouse and looted the place of \$50,000 worth of radio apparatus.

Officials of "66 Oil  
Company" Are Sentenced

SEATTLE, Dec. 9.—Leroy T. Bigelow, C. J. Rasmussen and Leslie M. Thayer, convicted officers of the "Sixty-Six Oil Syndicate" have been sentenced to prison in the Federal Court. Bigelow has been sentenced to two years, Rasmussen to eighteen months and Thayer to one year and one day.

Gun Is Accidentally  
Discharged; Man Killed

VALLEJO, Cal., Dec. 9.—By the accidental discharge of his gun, William Newman, guard at the marine prison, killed Clyde Reid, prisoner, and wounded two others.

New Settlement Plan  
For Government Land

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—United States Senator John B. Kendrick of Wyoming, has introduced a bill providing for a new plan for "aided and directed settlement" of government lands within Federal irrigation districts. The measure would authorize the Secretary of Interior to set aside and acquire not exceeding \$10 per acre, sufficient land to comprise 100 farms which, if necessary, can be cleared and levelled at government expense to aid applicants, at least of practical farming experience, and capital aggregating not less than one fourth of the appraised value of the farms.

Yearly Registration  
Of Aliens in  
U. S. Proposed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A compulsory yearly registration of aliens is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative James B. Aswell, Democrat, of Louisiana.

PARLIAMENT IS  
OPENED BY KING

Pronouncements Made of Domestic and Foreign Affairs—Soviet Issue.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—King George opened Parliament today with a speech from the throne full of pronouncements of foreign and domestic affairs. He said the government was unable to recommend parliamentary consideration of the Soviet treaties but desired "normal intercourse not be interrupted."

The King announced that the Prince of Wales will visit Argentina next year.

Signs \$25,000,000 Bill  
But Vetoes \$50,000 One

MANILA, Dec. 9.—Governor General Leonard Wood has signed the general \$25,000,000 appropriation bill but has vetoed the \$50,000 bill for work of the Filipino Independent Commission.

Store Robbers Are  
Captured Peacefully

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 9.—After having robbed two grocery stores in the suburbs, Frank Bramblett, 22, and Horace Beisel, 31, were peacefully captured by the police last night.

Recognition for World  
Fliers Is Now Proposed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Representative John Philip Hill, of Maryland, has introduced a bill to promote and also award the distinguished service medal to the world fliers.

OFFICIAL TABULATION  
COOLIDGE VOTE, WASH.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 9.—The official tabulation of the vote in the recent election shows Coolidge polled 220,224, LaFollette 150,727 and Davis 42,842. In the Fifth Congressional district Sam B. Hill received 36,844 and J. Edwards Ferguson 35,008.